



**Comments/Questions RE: NPDES Phase II Permit dated February 15, 2006**

**Submitted May 19, 2006 to Department of Ecology by Spokane County Stormwater Utility**

**Overall Comment:** The permit language is unclear as to how discharges to non-UIC discharges to ground are to be handled by permittees. For example, how will such discharges be mapped? What type of facility will be considered an “outfall” to an infiltration facility?

**Specific Comments:**

**Page 5, lines 22 and 23** Does this mean that discharges to rock sumps and roadside grassy swales that do not have a drywell (a UIC facility) are covered under this permit? If so, will the inlets to such swales be considered “outfalls” that need to be identified? It may be appropriate to require discharges to rock sumps to be identified as there is generally no pre-treatment prior to discharge to such sumps. Mapping such facilities and the street gutters that discharge to them will be difficult, however. Discharges to grassy swales should not be included as facilities with outfalls to be identified under this NPDES permit. Although grassy swales without drywells are not technically UIC facilities, we plan to include them in our inventory for Ecology under the UIC Program. We suggest clarifying language:

Discharges to ground waters not subject to regulation under the federal Clean Water Act, **except discharges to ground waters that receive pre-treatment comparable to accepted BMPs under the UIC Program**, are covered in this permit only under state authorities.

**Page 5, line 29** Does this mean that stormwater associated with construction or industrial activity of the MS4 agency as well as such activity by private dischargers to the MS4 will require separate individual or general NPDES permits? If that is the intent, please clarify language.

**Page 10, line 10** Does the map of the “outfalls” include mapping the inlets to swales and rock sumps that do not have drywells? If the stormwater conveyance system consists of street gutters taking runoff in a neighborhood down to a low spot in the road right-of-way where the water soaks into the ground, would the mapping show the gutters as the conveyance system and the inlet to the low spot as the outfall?

In some areas of our county, water sheet flows off roads into roadside ditches that store water until it can infiltrate into the ground. The ditches do not convey the runoff. Our interpretation is that the storage ditches would not be considered an MS4 and there would be no “outfall.” Since water sheet flows into the ditches, they are not “facilities” that would be considered non-UIC discharges to ground. We would not need to map such facilities. Is this interpretation correct?

*Brenda Sims*  
*Stormwater Utility Manager*  
509 477-7258